

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An oxygen-absorbing composition comprising 100 parts by weight of a carrier and an easily oxidizable organic composition carried on the carrier by impregnating a dried carrier with an easily oxidizable organic composition in liquid form, in an amount of 210-450~~exceeding 240~~ parts by weight, the carrier being a granulate of a calcium silicate compound represented by the following formula:



wherein m is a number from 1.6 to 6.5 and n is a positive number;
and the carrier having crystal structures constituted by aggregate of curved plate crystals comprising gyrolite calcium silicate and amorphous silicon dioxide, and the carrier being a granulate prepared by granulating and subsequently drying.

2. (Currently amended) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim~~Claim~~ 1, wherein the easily oxidizable organic composition is carried on the carrier in an amount of 240-450~~exceeding 240~~ parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the carrier.

3. (Currently amended) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim~~Claim~~ 1, wherein the carrier is a granulate prepared by granulating a mixture comprising 100 parts by weight of the calcium silicate compound and 0.01 to 20 parts by weight of a binder.

4. (Currently amended) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to ~~claim~~Claim 1, wherein the carrier is a granulate prepared by granulating a mixture comprising 100 parts by weight of the calcium silicate compound, 10 to 150 parts by weight of activated carbon and 0.01 to 20 parts by weight of a binder.

5. (Currently amended) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to ~~claim~~Claim 3, wherein the binder is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(vinyl acetate), poly(acrylic acid), polyurethane, methylcellulose, ethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, guar gum, xanthan gum, tragacanth gum, carageenan, and sodium alginate.

6. (Currently amended) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to ~~claim 1~~Claim 1 to, wherein n is from 1.0 to 1.5.

7. (Currently amended) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to ~~claim~~Claim 1, wherein the easily oxidizable organic composition comprises an easily oxidizable organic compound, an additive for putting the easily oxidizable organic compound in chemically easily oxidizable conditions and/or water.

8. (Original) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 7, wherein the easily oxidizable organic compound is at least one organic compound selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid, salts of ascorbic acid, erythorbic acid, salts of erythorbic acid, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glycerol, glucose, xylose, xylitol, mannitol, sorbitol, catechol, resorcinol, hydroquinone, gallic acid,

pyrogallol, tocopherol, vegetable oils, fish oils, tall oil, unsaturated fatty acids derived from vegetable oils, unsaturated fatty acids derived from fish oils, unsaturated fatty acids derived from tall oil, butadiene oligomers, and isoprene oligomers.

9. (Currently amended) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to ~~claim~~Claim 7, wherein the additive is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of alkali metal compounds, alkaline earth metal compounds, iron salts, manganese salts, copper salts, cobalt salts, carbonates, and hydrogen carbonates.

10. (Currently amended) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to ~~claim~~Claim 7, wherein the easily oxidizable organic composition comprises 100 parts by weight of ascorbic acid or its salt, 60 to 200 parts by weight of water, 1 to 35 parts by weight of an alkali agent, and 5 to 30 parts by weight of a transition metal salt catalyst.

11. (Currently amended) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to ~~claim~~Claim 7, wherein the easily oxidizable organic composition comprises 100 parts by weight of ~~a~~the polyhydric alcohol, 15 to 115 parts by weight of water, and 3 to 6 parts by weight of ~~a~~the transition metal salt catalyst.

12. (Currently amended) An oxygen-absorbing package comprising the oxygen-absorbing composition as defined in ~~claim~~Claim 1 packed by a gas-permeable packaging material.

13. (New) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 1, wherein the plate crystals are aggregated into corollaceous crystal structures.

14. (New) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 1, wherein said granulate has an average particle size of 100 μm or more.

15. (New) The oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 1, wherein the easily oxidizable organic composition is in a homogenous liquid form.

16. (New) A method for the production of the oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 1, which comprises granulating the calcium silicate compound to prepare a granulate, subsequently drying the granulate to prepare a dried carrier, and impregnating the dried carrier with the easily oxidizable organic composition, in liquid form.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the granulating is carried out by passing the carrier containing binders through punching plates or by rolling the carrier in a container.

18. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the impregnating is carried out by impregnating the dried carrier with the easily oxidizable organic composition, in homogeneous liquid form.

19. (New) A method for production of the oxygen-absorbing composition according to claim 1, which comprises the granulating which granulates the carrier

before drying, and then the impregnating which impregnates the dried carrier with an easily oxidizable organic composition in liquid form.